(iv) **Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara College of Ayurveda, Udupi, Karnataka**

The proposal for release of 2nd instalment amounting to Rs.200.00 lakhs was received on 21.10.2009 and endorsed for technical appraisal. This will be placed before the Screening Committee and admissible amount will be sanctioned.

(v) **Father Mullar Homoeo Medical College and Hospital, Mangalore.**

Proposal for Rs.838.64 lakhs was received on 23.02.2008. The proposal was considered by the Screening Committee and was not approved as it did not fulfill requirements of the scheme.

Law for curbing inducements to doctors

2860. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any law to tackle the practice of illegal inducements to doctors for promoting drugs of pharmaceutical companies;

(b) whether Government has seen reports in this regard in various print media; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) Department of Pharmaceuticals has stated that there were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, Department of Pharmaceuticals felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumer/patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/Industry, Department of Pharmaceuticals has been able to persuade most the associations to have code of ethics. Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association have informed that they alongwith the Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCMP)'.

Guidelines of Medical Council of India for S.T. students

2861. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing guidelines of Medical Council of India (MCI) require ST students to secure a minimum of 40 per cent marks in both entrance examination as well as the +2 examinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, number of seats, reserved for ST students and number of ST candidates who secured admission to MBBS and BDS courses for last three years, year-wise, State-wise, category-wise;

(d) whether steps will be taken to make special provisions in MCI rules and relaxing requirements of ST students to take up seats reserved for them in MBBS/BDS courses; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) In the Medical Council of India Graduate Medical Education Regulations 1997 as approved by the Central Government, relaxation has been provided in criteria for admission to MBBS course, in respect of SC/ST students. While 50% of marks has been provided for General category candidates for qualifying examination as well as entrance examination, it is 40% of marks for candidates belonging to SC/ST categories.

The MBBS seats are filled up under two categories namely "All India Quota" and "State Quota". Under All India quota, 15% MBBS seats of the State are contributed by the respective State Government. In so far as admission of SC and ST students in the All India quota is concerned, reservation at the rate of 15% and 7-1/2% respectively has been introduced from the academic year 2008-09. As per information available, for the academic year 2008-09, against 164 total seats for ST students, 111 ST candidates were allotted and for the year 2009-10, against 202, 75 candidates were allotted.

(c) to (e) With regard to State Quota for the remaining 85% seats, the admission process is conducted by the respective State Government. As such the Central Government does not maintain any data in the matter. While the State Governments have not pointed out any problem of shortage of filling up of SC/ST MBBS seats in the State, in the recent past the Government of Kerala informed the Central Government that ST candidates of their State are not able to qualify in the entrance examination getting admission against the reserved seats due to the above mentioned MCI norms. In the meanwhile, a Civil Writ Petition No. 393/2008-Vineeth K. and others versus State of Kerala and others - has also been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the criteria of 40% marks for ST students. The Hon'ble Court taking a note of the shortfall, has issued notices to Union of India and eight other States *viz.* Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal, U.P., M.P. and Karnataka. The matter is sub-judice.

Lack of medicines with health clinic for MPs

2862. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the health clinic with the Parliament House Annexe does not have all the medicines required by the Members of Parliament; and